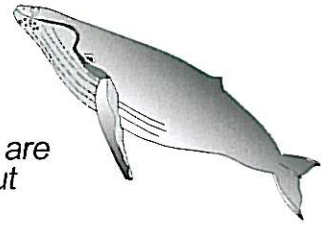


Humpbacks



Humpbacks are a type of whale. Whales are large mammals that live under the sea but come to the surface to breathe.

IDENTIFICATION

Every humpback has individual markings, like fingerprints. Humpbacks have a large, bumpy head with two blowholes. They are black or grey on top and white underneath with long front flippers and white markings under their flukes. Humpbacks grow up to 16 metres long and up to 45 tonnes in weight.

FOOD

Humpbacks are baleen whales. They filter feed on krill, plankton and catch small fish. They can eat up to 2500kg of food a day.

BEHAVIOUR

Humpback behaviours include breaching (breaches range from a full leap out of the water to surging up and falling back), finslapping (slapping their fins against the water), lobtailing (hitting their tails against the water) and spyhopping (where they poke their head out of the water and look around).

Humpbacks are very noisy whales. They produce a wide range of sounds and the males sing long and complex songs.



Humpback whales are an endangered species. Their numbers are threatened by illegal whaling, pollution, and entanglement in fishing nets.